

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An integrated device, comprising:

5 a plurality of functional units, wherein each functional unit is configured to receive one or more input signals, perform an operation or task, and produce one or more output signals, wherein each functional unit is configured to be inactive while one or more of the other functional units is active;

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a plurality of activity detector and clock control units coupled to said plurality of functional units; wherein each activity detector and clock control unit is associated with a different one of the functional units and configured to detect when its associated functional unit will be inactive;

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wherein each activity detector and clock control unit is configured to shut off a clock to its associated functional unit when its associated functional unit is inactive and provides the clock to its associated functional unit when its associated functional unit is active.

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2. The integrated device as recited in claim 1, wherein a first one of the activity detector and clock control units is configured to monitor some or all of the input signals received by a first one of the functional units to determine if the first functional unit is inactive.

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3. The integrated device as recited in claim 2, wherein the input signals received by the first functional unit comprise control signals for controlling the operation of the first functional unit, and wherein the first activity detector and clock control unit is configured to monitor one or more of the control signals to determine when the first functional unit is inactive.

4. The integrated device as recited in claim 2, wherein the input signals received by the first functional unit comprise data operated on by the first functional unit, and wherein the first activity detector and clock control unit is configured to monitor the flow of data to the first functional unit to determine when the first functional unit is inactive.

5. The integrated device as recited in claim 2, wherein the input signals received by the first functional unit comprise instructions to be performed by the first functional unit, and wherein the first activity detector and clock control unit is configured to monitor the instruction flow to the first functional unit to determine when the first functional unit is inactive.

10 6. The integrated device as recited in claim 1, wherein a first one of the activity detector and clock control units is configured to determine if its associated functional unit will be inactive for a threshold amount of time; wherein the first activity detector and clock control unit is configured to shut the clock off to its associated functional unit if its associated functional unit will be inactive for at least the threshold amount of time and provide a clock to its associated functional unit if its associated functional unit will not be inactive for at least the threshold amount of time.

15 7. The integrated device as recited in claim 6, wherein said threshold amount of time is a predetermined number of clock cycles.

20 8. The integrated device as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the activity detector and clock control units comprises:

an activity detector configured to determine when the associated functional unit is inactive; and

a clock gate coupled to the activity detector and configured to receive a main clock source for the integrated device and provide a functional unit clock source to the associated functional unit;

5 wherein the activity detector is configured to control the clock gate to shut off the functional unit clock source for the associated functional unit when the associated functional unit is inactive.

9. The integrated device as recited in claim 1, wherein a first one of the
10 activity detector and clock control units comprises an output emulator configured to drive the output signals for a first one of the functional units to a safe state when the clock is shut off to the first functional unit.

15 10. A microprocessor, comprising:

an integer execution unit configured to receive an integer instruction stream and execute integer instructions from the integer instruction stream;

20 an floating point execution unit configured to receive a floating point instruction stream and execute floating point instructions from the floating point instruction stream;

25 an integer activity detector unit coupled to the integer instruction stream and configured to detect when the integer execution unit will be inactive and shut a clock off to the integer execution unit when it is inactive; and

30 a floating point activity detector unit coupled to the floating point instruction stream and configured to detect when the floating point execution unit will be inactive and shut a clock off to the floating point execution unit when it is inactive.

11. The microprocessor as recited in claim 10, wherein the floating point activity detector unit is configured to determine if no floating point instructions will be presented to the floating point execution unit for a threshold amount of time; wherein the
5 floating point activity detector unit is configured to shut the clock off to the floating point execution unit if no floating point instructions will be presented to the floating point execution unit for the threshold amount of time and provide the clock to the floating point execution unit when an floating point instruction is presented to the floating point execution unit.

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12. The microprocessor as recited in claim 11, wherein said threshold amount of time is a predetermined number of clock cycles.

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13. A microprocessor, comprising:

an instruction fetch and decode unit configured to fetch and decode microprocessor instructions;

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an instruction scheduler configured to receive an instruction stream from the instruction fetch and decode unit, wherein the instruction scheduler is further configured to buffer the instruction stream and schedule instructions from the instruction stream for execution;

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an integer execution unit configured to receive integer instructions from the instruction scheduler and execute the integer instructions;

a floating point execution unit configured to receive floating point instructions from the instruction scheduler and execute the floating point instructions;

an activity detector coupled to the instruction scheduler and configured to monitor the instruction stream to detect a lack of instructions for the integer execution unit and to determine a lack of instructions for the floating point execution unit;

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a first clock control unit configured to control a first clock to the integer execution unit, wherein said first clock control unit is configured to shut off the first clock to the integer execution unit when the activity detector detects a lack of integer instructions in the instruction stream; and

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a second clock control unit configured to control a second clock to the floating point execution unit, wherein said second clock control unit is configured to shut off the second clock to the floating point execution unit when the activity detector detects a lack of floating point instructions in the instruction stream.

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14. The microprocessor as recited in claim 13, wherein the activity detector is configured to monitor the instruction stream to predicate a lack of floating point instructions in the instruction stream for at least a threshold amount of time and control the second clock control unit to shut the second clock off to the floating point execution unit when the activity detector predicates the lack of floating point instructions in the instruction stream for at least the threshold amount of time.

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15. The microprocessor as recited in claim 14, wherein the activity detector is configured to monitor the instruction stream to detect the presence of floating point instructions in the instruction stream and control the second clock control unit to restore the second clock to the floating point execution unit when a floating point instruction is scheduled for the floating point execution unit.

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16. An integrated device, comprising:

a first functional unit configured to receive an first input and perform a first operation or task according to the first input;

5 a second functional unit configured to receive a second input and perform a second operation or task according to the second input;

an activity detector coupled to the first and second inputs and configured to determine when the first function unit will be inactive and when the second functional unit will be inactive;

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a first clock control unit configured to control a first clock to the first functional unit, wherein said first clock control unit is configured to shut off the first clock to the first functional unit when the activity detector determines that the first functional unit will be inactive; and

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a second clock control unit configured to control a second clock to the second functional unit, wherein said second clock control unit is configured to shut off the second clock to the second functional unit when the activity detector determines that the second functional unit will be inactive.

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